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No.1

STEVE ROGERS
CAPTAIN AMERICA
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Super-Soldier. Avenger. Man Out of Time. He is...

Steve Rogers
CAPTAIN AMERICA

While fighting his way through S.H.I.E.L.D.'s reality-bending small-town super prison, Pleasant Hill, an aged and de-powered Steve Rogers was returned to fighting form by a sentient Cosmic Cube named Kobik. Sam Wilson, the current Captain America, offered to share the title--and with the Red Skull, Baron Zemo and Kobik all at large after the collapse of Pleasant Hill, the world needs two Captain Americas more than ever...

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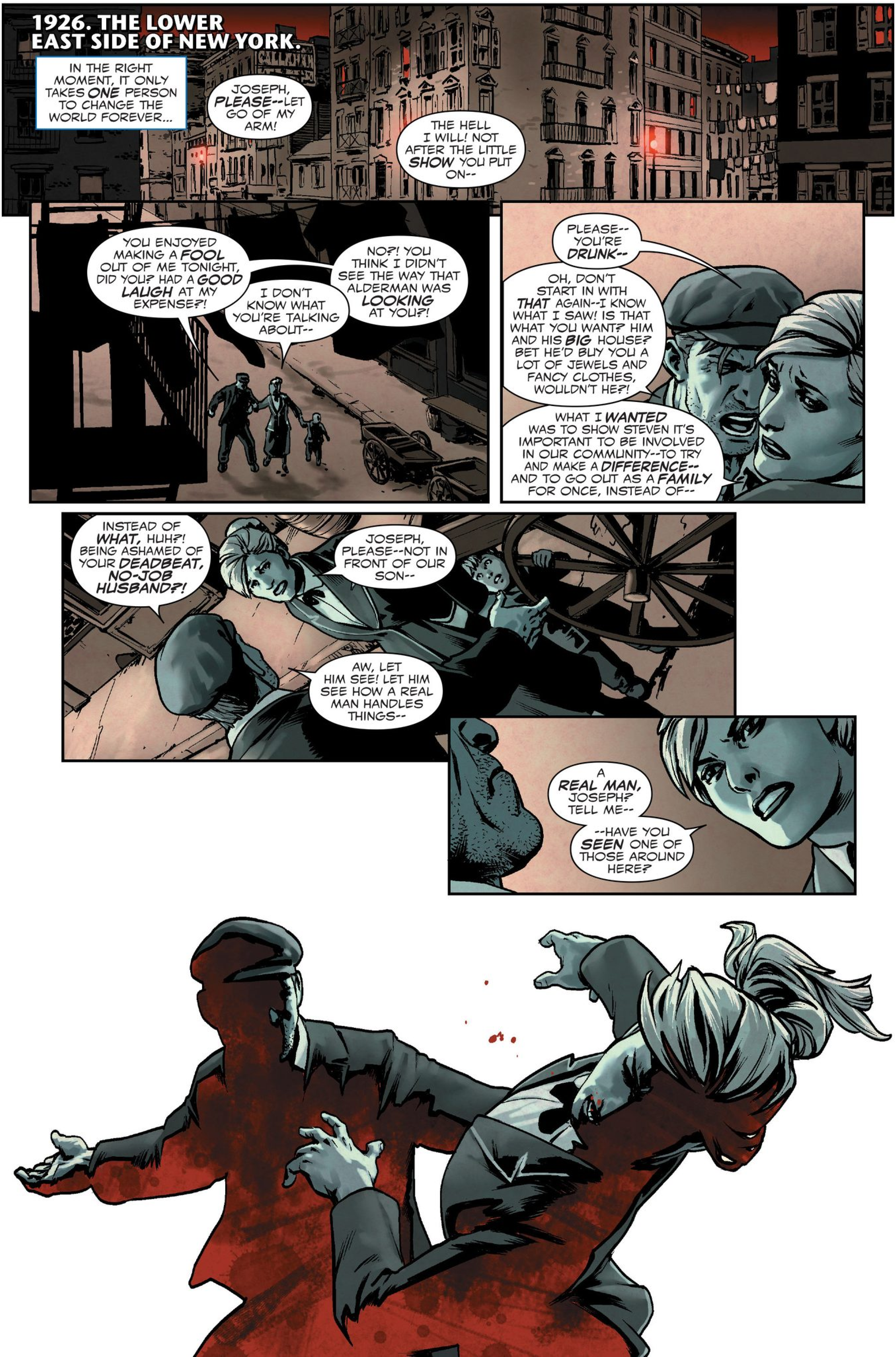
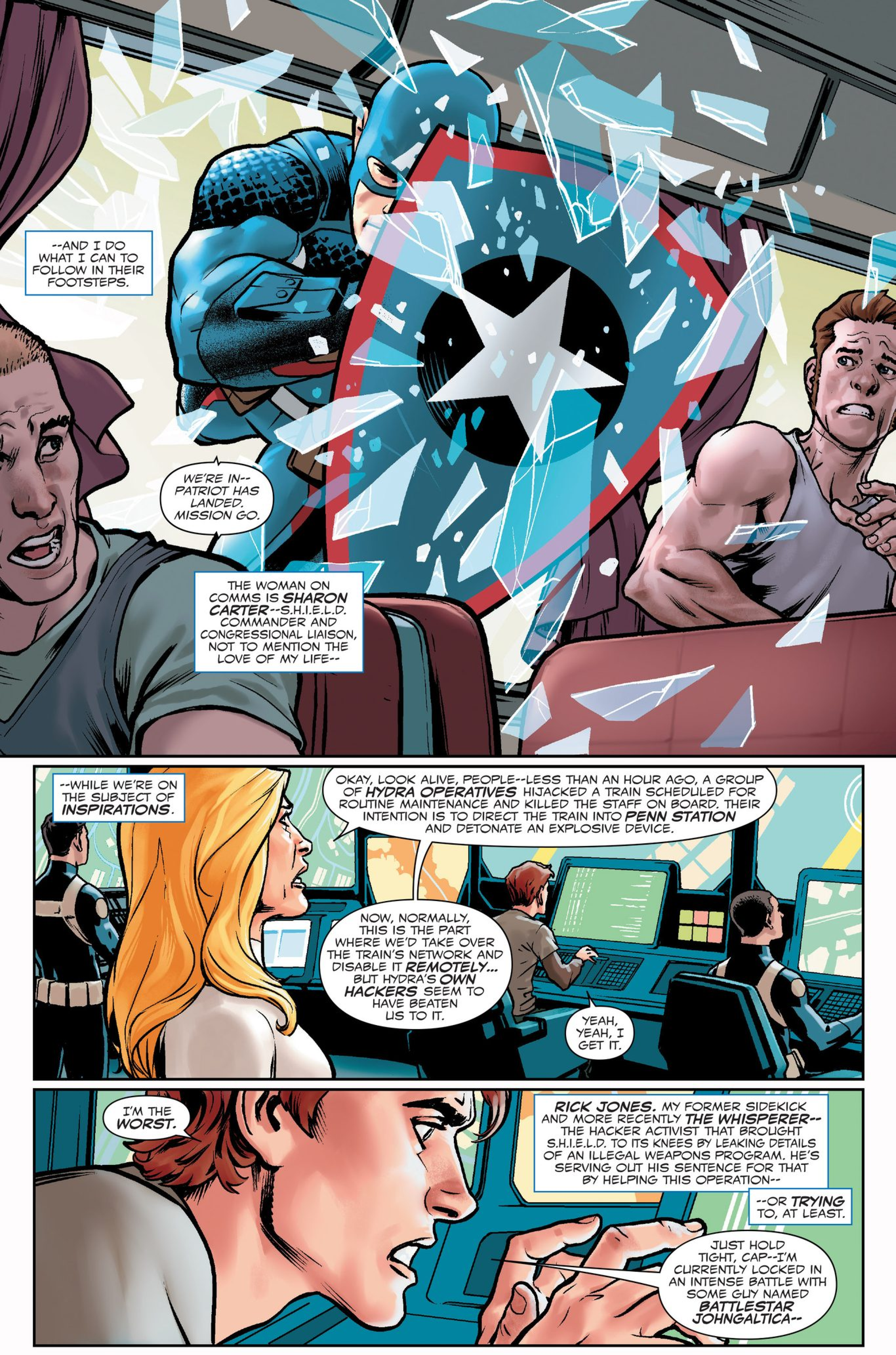


1926. THE LOWER EAST SIDE OF NEW YORK.
IN THE RIGHT MOMENT, IT ONLY TAKES ONE PERSON TO CHANGE THE WORLD FOREVER...
JOSEPH, PLEASE--LET GO OF MY ARM!
THE HELL I WILL! NOT AFTER THE LITTLE SHOW YOU PUT ON--
YOU ENJOYED MAKING A FOOL OUT OF ME TONIGHT, DID YOU? HAD A GOOD LAUGH AT MY EXPENSE?!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT--
NO?! YOU THINK I DIDN'T SEE THE WAY THAT ALDERMAN WAS LOOKING AT YOU?!
PLEASE--YOU'RE DRUNK--
OH, DON'T START IN WITH THAT AGAIN--I KNOW WHAT I SAW! IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT? HIM AND HIS BIG HOUSE? BET HE'D BUY YOU A LOT OF JEWELS AND FANCY CLOTHES, WOULDN'T HE?!
WHAT I WANTED WAS TO SHOW STEVEN IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE INVOLVED IN OUR COMMUNITY--TO TRY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE-- AND TO GO OUT AS A FAMILY FOR ONCE, INSTEAD OF--
INSTEAD OF WHAT, HUH?! BEING ASHAMED OF YOUR DEADBEAT, NO-JOB HUSBAND?!
JOSEPH, PLEASE--NOT IN FRONT OF OUR SON--
AW, LET HIM SEE! LET HIM SEE HOW A REAL MAN HANDLES THINGS--
A REAL MAN, JOSEPH? TELL ME--
--HAVE YOU SEEN ONE OF THOSE AROUND HERE?

YOU WANT TO DISRESPECT ME IN FRONT OF MY NEIGHBORS?! IN FRONT OF MY OWN **BOY?!** I'LL--
AH-- EXCUSE ME!
IS EVERYTHING **ALL RIGHT** DOWN HERE?
HUH?
I SAID, IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT? YOUR WIFE, I'LL PRESUME--SHE SEEMS TO HAVE **SLIPPED--**
YOU SHOULD HELP HER UP.
AND **YOU** SHOULD MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, WHOEVER YOU ARE--
HM. PERHAPS IN A MOMENT-- **MISS,** DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE?
I SAID **MOVE ON!** NOW **GO...**
...BEFORE I--
YOU DON'T SEEM WELL **YOURSELF,** SIR--
HNN--?

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR WAY HOME, GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP, YES?
OOF!
GO ON-- I'LL MAKE SURE YOUR FAMILY IS TAKEN CARE OF.
WELL NOW, IF THAT'S ENOUGH EXCITEMENT--
T-THANK YOU, MS.--?
SINCLAIR. ELISA SINCLAIR. AND YOU'RE SARAH ROGERS AREN'T YOU? YOU WORK AT THE SEWING MILL ON DELANCEY.
YES. H-HOW DID YOU KNOW?
I'M AN ACQUAINTANCE OF THE OWNER. HE SPEAKS QUITE HIGHLY OF YOU, SAYS YOU'RE A HARD WORKER--
I SUPPOSE EVERY FAMILY NEEDS ONE.
AND WHO IS THIS BRAVE SOUL, THEN?
IN THE RIGHT MOMENT, ANY OF US CAN BE A HERO.
I BELIEVE THIS BECAUSE EVER SINCE I WAS A YOUNG BOY, I'VE SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES. THOSE EXAMPLES INSPIRED ME--



--AND I DO WHAT I CAN TO FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS.
WE'RE IN-- PATRIOT HAS LANDED. MISSION GO.
THE WOMAN ON COMMS IS SHARON CARTER--S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMANDER AND CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON, NOT TO MENTION THE LOVE OF MY LIFE--
--WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF INSPIRATIONS.
OKAY, LOOK ALIVE, PEOPLE--LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO, A GROUP OF HYDRA OPERATIVES HIJACKED A TRAIN SCHEDULED FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE AND KILLED THE STAFF ON BOARD. THEIR INTENTION IS TO DIRECT THE TRAIN INTO PENN STATION AND DETONATE AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE.
NOW, NORMALLY, THIS IS THE PART WHERE WE'D TAKE OVER THE TRAIN'S NETWORK AND DISABLE IT REMOTELY... BUT HYDRA'S OWN HACKERS SEEM TO HAVE BEATEN US TO IT.
YEAH, YEAH, I GET IT.
I'M THE WORST.
RICK JONES. MY FORMER SIDEKICK AND MORE RECENTLY THE WHISPERER-- THE HACKER ACTIVIST THAT BROUGHT S.H.I.E.L.D. TO ITS KNEES BY LEAKING DETAILS OF AN ILLEGAL WEAPONS PROGRAM. HE'S SERVING OUT HIS SENTENCE FOR THAT BY HELPING THIS OPERATION--
--OR TRYING TO, AT LEAST.
JUST HOLD TIGHT, CAP--I'M CURRENTLY LOCKED IN AN INTENSE BATTLE WITH SOME GUY NAMED BATTLESTAR JOHNGALTICA--

BUT JUST IN CASE I CAN'T GET THROUGH--I MAY NEED TO WALK YOU THROUGH THE TRAIN CONTROLS, FLESH-AND-BLOOD STYLE.
NOT TO WORRY, RICK--
--THAT'S GENERALLY WHAT I SPECIALIZE IN.
STEVE, IT'S SHARON AGAIN.
YOU KNOW, I KINDA RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE.
RICK'S DOING WHAT HE CAN, BUT OBVIOUSLY THERE'S A CLOCK HERE, SO WE ALL NEED TO KNOW--
--DO YOU SEE THE BOMB?
WELL-- UNFF--QUITE A BIT IN MY WAY, BUT, YEAH--
--I SEE HIM.
ROBBIE DEAN TOMLIN DIDN'T HAVE THE EASIEST CHILDHOOD EVER, EITHER.
WHILE HIS PARENTS FOUGHT AND THE EVICTIONS FOLLOWED ONE AFTER THE OTHER, HE SPENT HIS FIRST SIXTEEN YEARS PLANTED IN FRONT OF A TELEVISION SET, DREAMING OF SOMETHING BETTER.

HIS GRADES HAD BEEN POOR AND HIS FAMILY EVEN POORER, SO COLLEGE WAS NEVER AN OPTION.
INSTEAD, HE STARTED STEALING CARS TO MAKE HIS RENT.
HE WASN'T GOOD AT IT.
HE'D NEVER HAD A PROBLEM WITH MINORITIES, HAD NEVER BEEN POLITICAL, BUT IN JAIL YOU NEED SOMEONE TO WATCH YOUR BACK--
SO HE FELL IN WITH A BAD CROWD OF WHITE SUPREMACISTS.
ONCE HE GOT OUT, HIS PROBATION OFFICER FOUND HIM A JOB STOCKING SHELVES AT SOME BIG-BOX RETAILER.
THE TATTOOS WERE A PROBLEM, BUT NOT FOR LONG. THE FINANCIAL CRISIS HIT, AND HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO BE LAID OFF.
FROM THERE, THINGS SPIRALED. YEARS LOST TO A HAZE OF POVERTY AND ADDICTION.
FOUND SOMEONE FOR A LITTLE WHILE, BUT THEN ADDICTION TOOK HER, TOO.
WHEN THAT HAPPENED, HE SWORE HE'D GET CLEAN. STARTED LIVING A LIFE OF 12-STEP PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS IN CHURCH BASEMENTS.
UNTIL HIS OLD CELLMATE CALLED, EXCITED ABOUT SOME MEETING HE'D GONE TO AND INVITING HIM OUT FOR THE NEXT ONE.
I'M TELLING YOU--THIS GUY IS THE REAL DEAL. HE'S TALKING ABOUT ALL THE STUFF WE USED TO--TAKING OUR COUNTRY BACK, GETTING RID OF ALL THIS POLITICAL-CORRECTNESS BULL--
I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT--JUST COME WITH ME. LISTEN TO HIM. HE'LL MAKE YOU A BELIEVER.
SO ROBBIE DID GO.
BECAUSE EVEN AFTER ALL HE'D BEEN THROUGH, HE NEVER STOPPED DREAMING OF SOMETHING BETTER.
AND THAT'S THE FUNNY THING ABOUT HOPE...
WHAT AN AUDIENCE--

...SOMETIMES IT COMES FROM THE STRANGEST PLACES.
--WE GROW IN NUMBER EACH TIME I VISIT. THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS, FOR YOUR COURAGE AND DEDICATION TO OUR CAUSE. I HAVE JUST COME FROM EUROPE--
--MY HOMELAND, IN FACT. AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT I SAW THERE?
IT WAS AN INVADING ARMY.
THESE SO-CALLED "REFUGEES"--MILLIONS OF THEM--MARCHING ACROSS THE CONTINENT, BRINGING THEIR FANATICAL BELIEFS AND THEIR CRIME WITH THEM.
THEY ATTACK OUR WOMEN, AND BOMB OUR CITIES.
AND HOW DO OUR LEADERS RESPOND? DO THEY PUSH THEM BACK AND ENFORCE THE BORDERS, AS IS OUR SOVEREIGN DUTY?
OF COURSE NOT. THEY SAY, "HERE, TAKE OUR FOOD. TAKE OUR SHELTER. TAKE OUR WAY OF LIFE, AND THEN TAKE OUR LIVES."
DESPICABLE.
SO IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE, WHERE SOME MEN STILL KNOW HOW TO FIGHT.
WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN, THERE WAS A GREAT WAR. AND OUR TWO COUNTRIES DID NOT SEE EYE TO EYE. BUT ALL THE SIDES--
--THEY ALL AGREED ON CERTAIN THINGS. THE FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF A NATION--
--PROTECTING THE LAND THROUGH STRENGTH. PRESERVING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF THE PEOPLE. OFFERING THEM OPPORTUNITY.
NOW LOOK AT THE WORLD TODAY. LOOK HERE--AT THE DEAD HUSK THAT WAS THESE "UNITED STATES." HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN.
WHO IS PROTECTED, I ASK YOU?
ON MY FLIGHT, I WAS BRIEFED ABOUT THESE BRAVE PATRIOTS FIGHTING THE GOVERNMENT'S ILLEGAL CLAIMS TO THEIR LAND--WHO DOES THE LAND BELONG TO IF NOT THE PEOPLE?!
THIS IS WHO YOUR GOVERNMENT SEES AS THE TRANSGRESSORS?! WHAT ABOUT THE CRIMINAL TRESPASSERS WHO MAKE A MOCKERY OF YOUR BORDERS? NO, THEY ARE PROTECTED, OF COURSE!
BUT THAT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING--YOUR ENTIRE CULTURE IS UNDER SIEGE. THE PRINCIPLES YOUR COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED UPON LOST IN THE NAME OF "TOLERANCE."
YOUR RELIGION, YOUR BELIEFS, YOUR SENSE OF COMMUNITY--ALL TOSSED ASIDE LIKE TRASH. AND YOU CANNOT EVEN SPEAK OUT AGAINST IT, LEST YOU BE CALLED A BIGOT!
AND WHO BENEFITS FROM ALL THIS BUT THE VULTURES FEASTING ON THE CARCASS? THE BANKERS WHO STOLE YOUR HOMES OUT FROM UNDER YOU, AND THE POLITICIANS THEY PURCHASED.
WELL, LET THEM CALL YOU WHAT THEY WILL. I KNOW WHO YOU TRULY ARE--
--THE BEGINNING OF A REVOLUTION. THE FIRST TO SEE THE COLLAPSE OF THE OLD GUARD, AND THE ROAD TO SOMETHING GLORIOUS!
THE GLORY OF HYDRA!

BY THE TIME THE RED SKULL WAS GETTING TO THE END OF HIS SPEECH, ROBBIE'S HEART FELT LIKE IT WAS IN HIS THROAT.
HE'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS. AND THE FEELING--IT WAS INTOXICATING.
WHEN THE TIME CAME AND THE CALL WENT OUT, ROBBIE FLUNG HIS ARMS INTO THE AIR, JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER MAN IN THE ROOM. HE SCREAMED THE CHANT AS LOUD AS HE COULD, OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
THIS WAS HIS CHANCE TO BE SOMETHING, AFTER ALL.
TO BELONG TO SOMETHING.
AND SO HE SAID YES WHEN THEY ASKED HIM TO TAKE THE MARK. THAT PART WAS EASY--
BUT DOING NOTHING WHILE THEY BEAT A MAN TO DEATH FOR NO REASON, OTHER THAN THE COLOR OF HIS SKIN?
THAT WAS HARD.
AFTER THAT NIGHT, IT WAS ALMOST A RELIEF WHEN THEY CAME AND TOLD HIM IT WAS TIME TO GIVE UP HIS OWN LIFE AS WELL.
HE THOUGHT ABOUT TELEVISION WHILE THEY STRAPPED THE BOMB TO HIS CHEST.

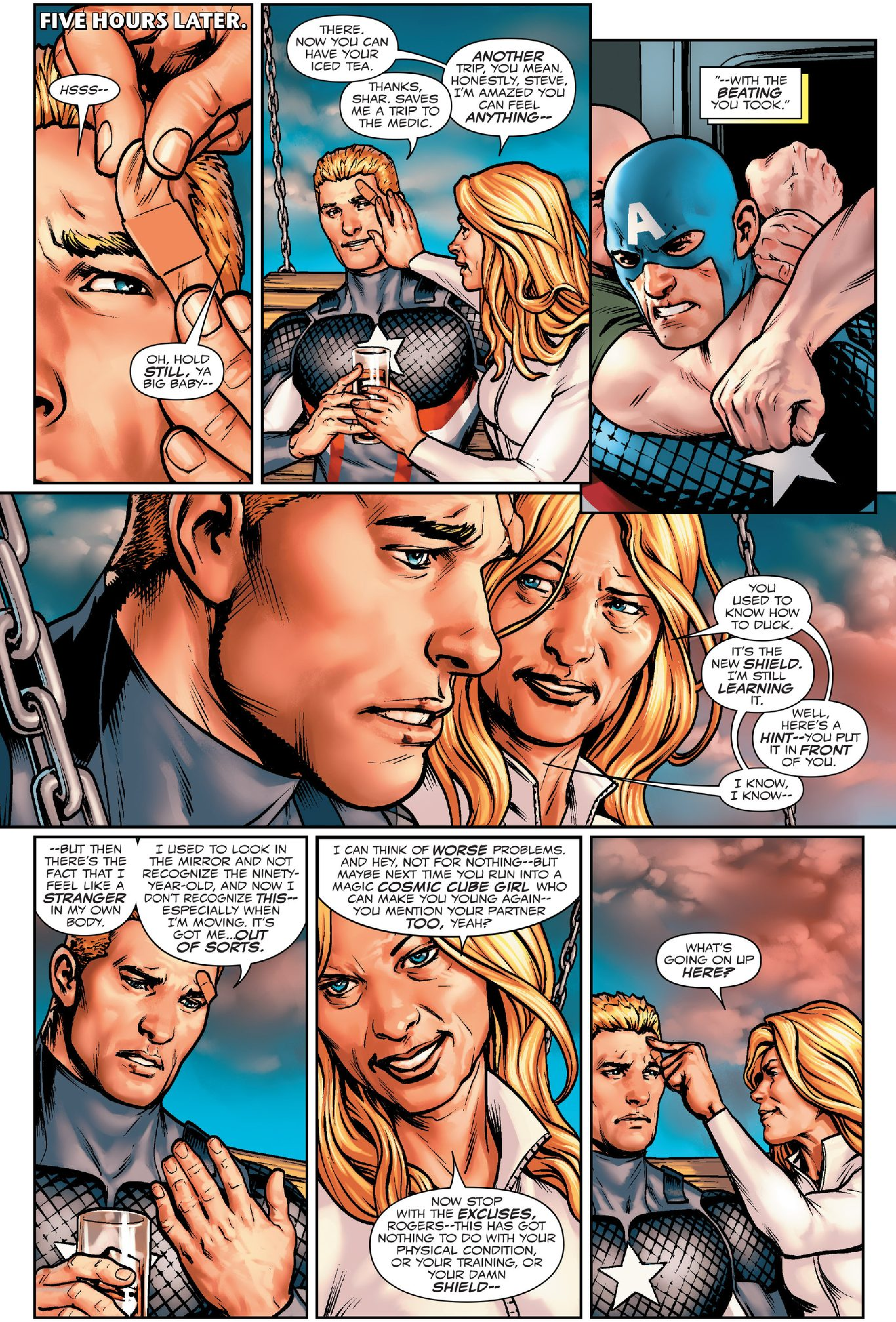
WE'RE ALL JUST TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
TRYING TO BE HEROES.
ALMOST DONE HERE--
--BUT WHAT ABOUT THE HYDRA OPS AT THEIR STAGING SITE? I CAN CIRCLE BACK AFTER--
STEVE--
WE HAD A DISCUSSION ABOUT THIS.
I RECALL IT WAS MORE LIKE AN ARGUMENT.
WELL, I CALL THEM DISCUSSIONS IF I WIN. AND DESPITE YOUR MANY PROTESTS, I AM DELIGHTED TO REMIND YOU I OVERRULED YOU. WHICH MEANS YOU ARE NO LONGER ALONE OUT THERE--

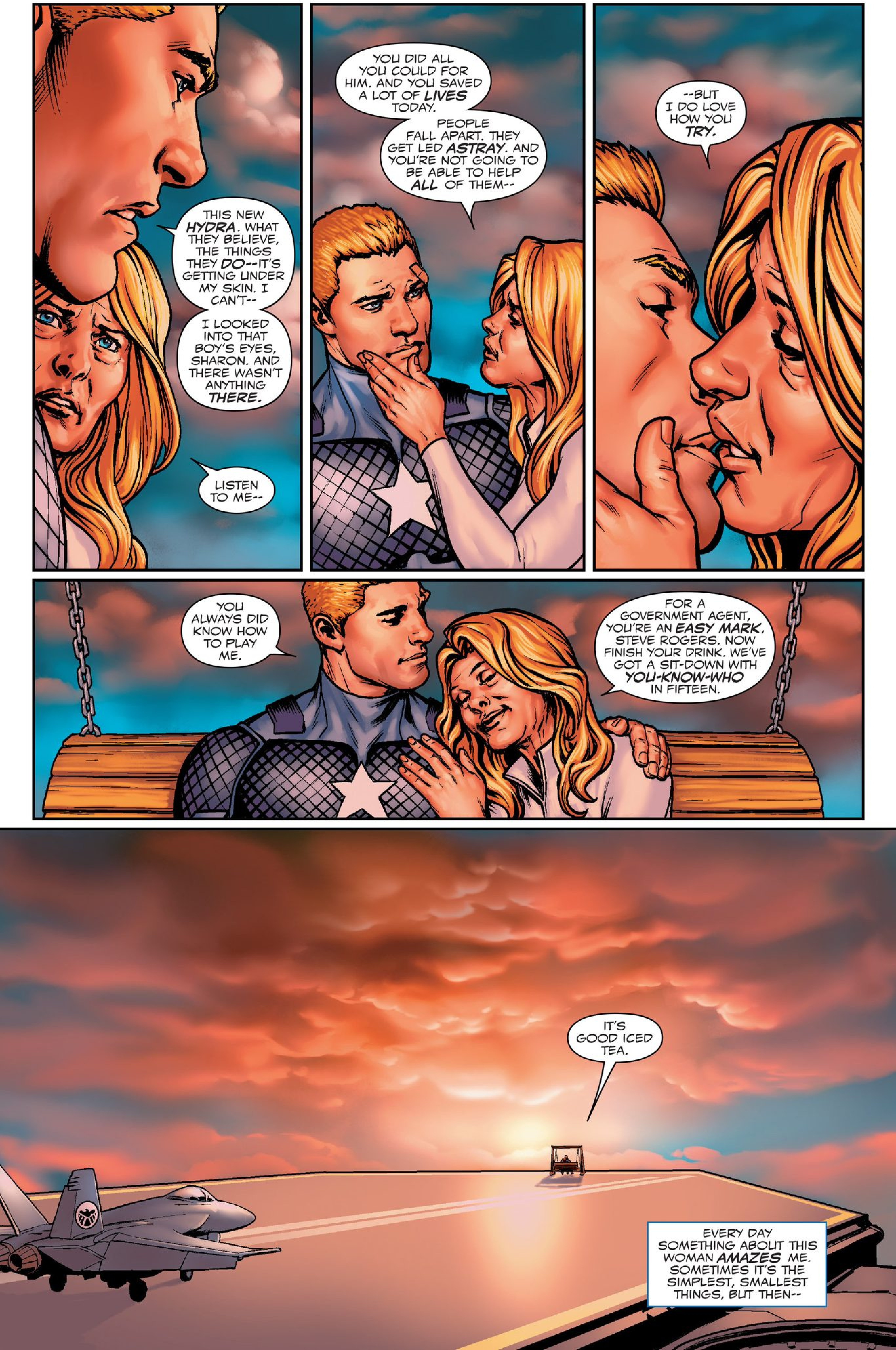
--JACK FLAG AND FREE SPIRIT ARE IN THE FIELD.
THAT'S RIGHT, CAP! DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THESE @#$@, WE GOT THIS!
AND THANK YOU FOR GIVING US A SHOT AT THIS, SIR.
SIR?! DID YOU JUST HEAR ME, CATHY? THIS WAS MY IDEA. HE DIDN'T WANT TO "PUT ANYONE ELSE AT RISK."
ALL DUE RESPECT, COMMANDER-- I'M STILL GONNA PRETEND CAPTAIN AMERICA ASKED US. THE "STORY FOR GRANDKIDS" FACTOR AND ALL.
YEAH, BUT EITHER WAY, ME?
I'M JUST EXCITED TO BE RELEVANT AGAIN.
SIGH--- MY LIFE IS RIDICULOUS.
STEVE, YOU OUT OF PEOPLE TO PUNCH YET?

ONE SECOND--
UHFF!
THAT'LL TEACH THEM TO BE DISRESPECTFUL OF THE QUIET CAR.
OH GOD, NEVER TELL ANOTHER JOKE.
WOO-HOO! SUCK IT, BATTLESTAR JOHNGALTICA!
OUR TRAIN THAT WAS THEIR TRAIN IS NOW, UM, OUR TRAIN AGAIN! FIXING IT UP NOW--
STEVE-- YOU GET THAT? THAT'S IT--TRAIN DETACHING AND REROUTING AWAY FROM THE STATION. GET OUT OF THERE--WE'VE GOT EVERYONE ELSE CLEAR OF THE BLAST!
NO--
--NOT EVERYONE.

ROBBIE?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, SON--
--THERE'S ALWAYS A BETTER WAY.
I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED. I KNOW YOU'RE FRUSTRATED. AND I KNOW YOU FEEL LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. BUT I CAN HELP YOU, IF YOU'LL LET ME.
SNIFF-- S'TOO LATE. IT'S TOO LATE.
NEVER. WE TALKED TO YOUR MOTHER, ROBBIE. SHE MISSES YOU.
SHE WANTS HER SON TO COME HOME.
HOME... HH...
LOOK AROUND, CAP. DON'T YOU SEE IT? WHAT THEY DONE TO US?
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO FINISH THIS--
--THERE'S NO HOME LEFT TO GO BACK TO.
HAIL HYDRA.

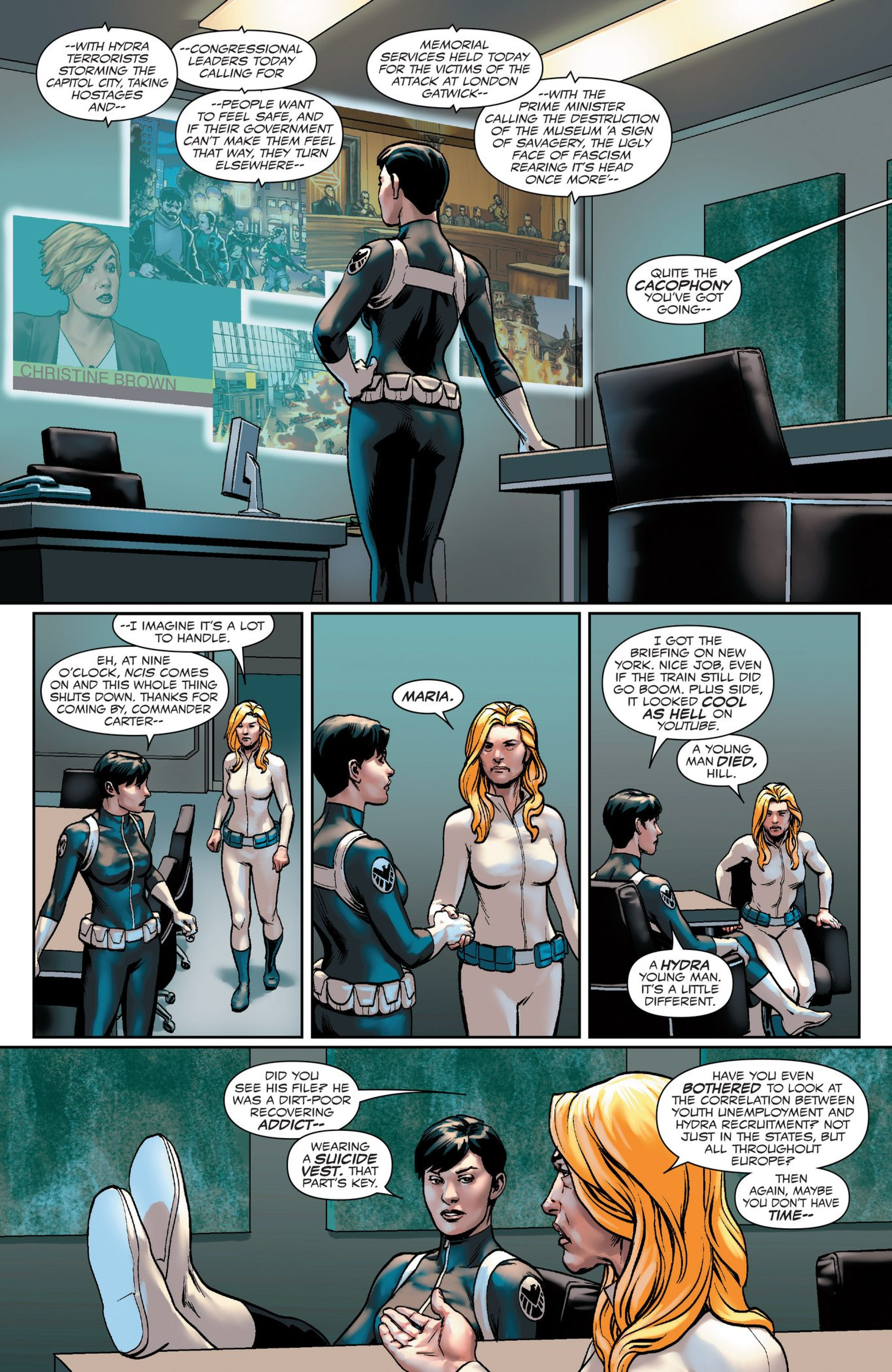
SHARON--
IT'S OVER.
WE
LOST
HIM.


FIVE HOURS LATER.
HSSS--
OH, HOLD STILL, YA BIG BABY--
THERE. NOW YOU CAN HAVE YOUR ICED TEA.
THANKS, SHAR. SAVES ME A TRIP TO THE MEDIC.
ANOTHER TRIP, YOU MEAN. HONESTLY, STEVE, I'M AMAZED YOU CAN FEEL ANYTHING--
"--WITH THE BEATING YOU TOOK."
YOU USED TO KNOW HOW TO DUCK.
IT'S THE NEW SHIELD. I'M STILL LEARNING IT.
WELL, HERE'S A HINT--YOU PUT IT IN FRONT OF YOU.
I KNOW, I KNOW--
--BUT THEN THERE'S THE FACT THAT I FEEL LIKE A STRANGER IN MY OWN BODY.
I USED TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND NOT RECOGNIZE THE NINETY-YEAR-OLD, AND NOW I DON'T RECOGNIZE THIS--ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M MOVING. IT'S GOT ME...OUT OF SORTS.
I CAN THINK OF WORSE PROBLEMS. AND HEY, NOT FOR NOTHING--BUT MAYBE NEXT TIME YOU RUN INTO A MAGIC COSMIC CUBE GIRL WHO CAN MAKE YOU YOUNG AGAIN--YOU MENTION YOUR PARTNER TOO, YEAH?
NOW STOP WITH THE EXCUSES, ROGERS--THIS HAS GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION, OR YOUR TRAINING, OR YOUR DAMN SHIELD--
WHAT'S GOING ON UP HERE?


THIS NEW HYDRA. WHAT THEY BELIEVE, THE THINGS THEY DO--IT'S GETTING UNDER MY SKIN. I CAN'T--
I LOOKED INTO THAT BOY'S EYES, SHARON. AND THERE WASN'T ANYTHING THERE.
LISTEN TO ME--
YOU DID ALL YOU COULD FOR HIM. AND YOU SAVED A LOT OF LIVES TODAY.
PEOPLE FALL APART. THEY GET LED ASTRAY. AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO HELP ALL OF THEM--
--BUT I DO LOVE HOW YOU TRY.
YOU ALWAYS DID KNOW HOW TO PLAY ME.
FOR A GOVERNMENT AGENT, YOU'RE AN EASY MARK, STEVE ROGERS. NOW FINISH YOUR DRINK. WE'VE GOT A SIT-DOWN WITH YOU-KNOW-WHO IN FIFTEEN.
IT'S GOOD ICED TEA.
EVERY DAY SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WOMAN AMAZES ME. SOMETIMES IT'S THE SIMPLEST, SMALLEST THINGS, BUT THEN--

--A LITTLE KINDNESS CAN GO A LONG, LONG WAY.
YOU MUST TRY THE LAMB.
OH, I COULDN'T, I'VE ALREADY--
NONSENSE. YOU DEVOURED YOUR SOUP LIKE YOU HADN'T EATEN IN A FORTNIGHT-- EXCUSE ME, THEODORE?
WE'LL BOTH HAVE THE LAMB SHANK IN THE RED SAUCE. AND I'LL HAVE ANOTHER GLASS.
RIGHT AWAY, MA'AM.
YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE IT. I'M SO PROUD OF FINDING THIS PLACE. AND HOW KIND OF THEM TO KEEP IT OPEN THIS LATE JUST FOR US.
MS. SINCLAIR--
ELISA.
E-ELISA. I APPRECIATE YOUR KINDNESS, BUT--WHY ARE YOU DOING ALL THIS?
LET'S JUST SAY I KNOW HOW... CHALLENGING MARRIAGE CAN BE FOR A WOMAN. MEN AND THEIR TEMPERS. DEVILISH THINGS.
I--I SEE. IS YOUR HUSBAND...?
HE'S NO LONGER WITH US, I'M AFRAID.
I'M SO SORRY. DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN?
MM. NO--CAN'T SAY I EVER HAD THE DESIRE. YOUR STEVEN IS A DELIGHT, THOUGH--
HE'S A LOVELY BOY. HAS A GOOD HEART.
NOT JUST A HEART. YOU CAN SEE IT IN THE EYES FROM AN EARLY AGE, I BELIEVE--THAT ONE'S DESTINED FOR GREATNESS.
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
I DO. TRUST ME--

"--SOMEDAY THEY'LL BE TELLING STORIES ABOUT HIM."
AND THEN CAP IS LIKE, "RICK! THROW ME THE SHIELD!"
AND I'M JUST LIKE, "ARE YOU @#$%! SERIOUS?!"
THAT WAS A CRAZY DAY.
OH MAN, AND THE KREE-SKRULL WAR. UNREAL.
YEAH, SERIOUSLY, DUDE. FOR SOMEONE WHO WORKS IN I.T., YOU HAVE HAD SOME ADVENTURES.
EHH...I JUST TRY NOT TO SAY NO TO THINGS. YOU TWO MUST HAVE SOME GOOD CAP STORIES THOUGH, TOO, RIGHT?
AH, A LITTLE. WE WERE AROUND IN THE HOTLINE DAYS.
WAS THAT WHEN HE WAS A WEREWOLF?
NO, LATER--WHEN HE WAS WEARING THE ARMOR.
HA, THOSE SHOULDER PADS! BAD LOOK--
OH, YOU'RE GONNA TALK ABOUT BAD LOOKS? THE GUY THAT CARRIED A BOOMBOX AROUND ON ALL HIS MISSIONS?
WHAA--?
I'M NOT KIDDING YOU! HE'D PUT IT DOWN ON THE GROUND AND BLAST HIS FUNKY BUNCH CDs WHILE WE WERE TRYING TO FIGHT THE SERPENT SOCIETY. IT WAS HUMILIATING.
CAREFUL, RICK--YOU KNOW HOW SHE GOT HER POWERS, RIGHT? SUPERIA PROGRAMMED HER TO HATE AND KILL ALL MEN.
SERIOUSLY?
YEAH, AND BASED ON HOW MANY COMMENTS SHE LEAVES ON JEZEBEL EVERY DAY, I'M PRETTY SURE THE PROGRAMMING DIDN'T ENTIRELY WEAR OFF.
PROBABLY NOT.
SO, YEAH, GUESS YOU CAN TELL, THIS IS KINDA A BIG DEAL FOR US, GETTING TO WORK WITH CAP AGAIN--
SERIOUSLY. I MISSED IT SO MUCH. THE WAY IT FELT OUT THERE TODAY--AMAZING.
CHEERS TO THAT. IT'S GONNA BE ONE HELL OF AN ADVENTURE--
AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE GOT OURSELVES A GREAT CREW.
YOU KNOW, RICK, I WAS IN THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
OH MY GOD, DO NOT LISTEN TO HIM, HE IS MAKING THAT UP--


--WITH HYDRA TERRORISTS STORMING THE CAPITOL CITY, TAKING HOSTAGES AND--
--CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TODAY CALLING FOR
--PEOPLE WANT TO FEEL SAFE, AND IF THEIR GOVERNMENT CAN'T MAKE THEM FEEL THAT WAY, THEY TURN ELSEWHERE--
MEMORIAL SERVICES HELD TODAY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE ATTACK AT LONDON GATWICK--
--WITH THE PRIME MINISTER CALLING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE MUSEUM 'A SIGN OF SAVAGERY, THE UGLY FACE OF FASCISM REARING IT'S HEAD ONCE MORE'--
CHRISTINE BROWN
QUITE THE CACOPHONY YOU'VE GOT GOING--
--I IMAGINE IT'S A LOT TO HANDLE.
EH, AT NINE O'CLOCK, NCIS COMES ON AND THIS WHOLE THING SHUTS DOWN. THANKS FOR COMING BY, COMMANDER CARTER--
MARIA.
I GOT THE BRIEFING ON NEW YORK. NICE JOB, EVEN IF THE TRAIN STILL DID GO BOOM. PLUS SIDE, IT LOOKED COOL AS HELL ON YOUTUBE.
A YOUNG MAN DIED, HILL.
A HYDRA YOUNG MAN. IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
DID YOU SEE HIS FILE? HE WAS A DIRT-POOR RECOVERING ADDICT--
WEARING A SUICIDE VEST. THAT PART'S KEY.
HAVE YOU EVEN BOTHERED TO LOOK AT THE CORRELATION BETWEEN YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND HYDRA RECRUITMENT? NOT JUST IN THE STATES, BUT ALL THROUGHOUT EUROPE?
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE YOU DON'T HAVE TIME--

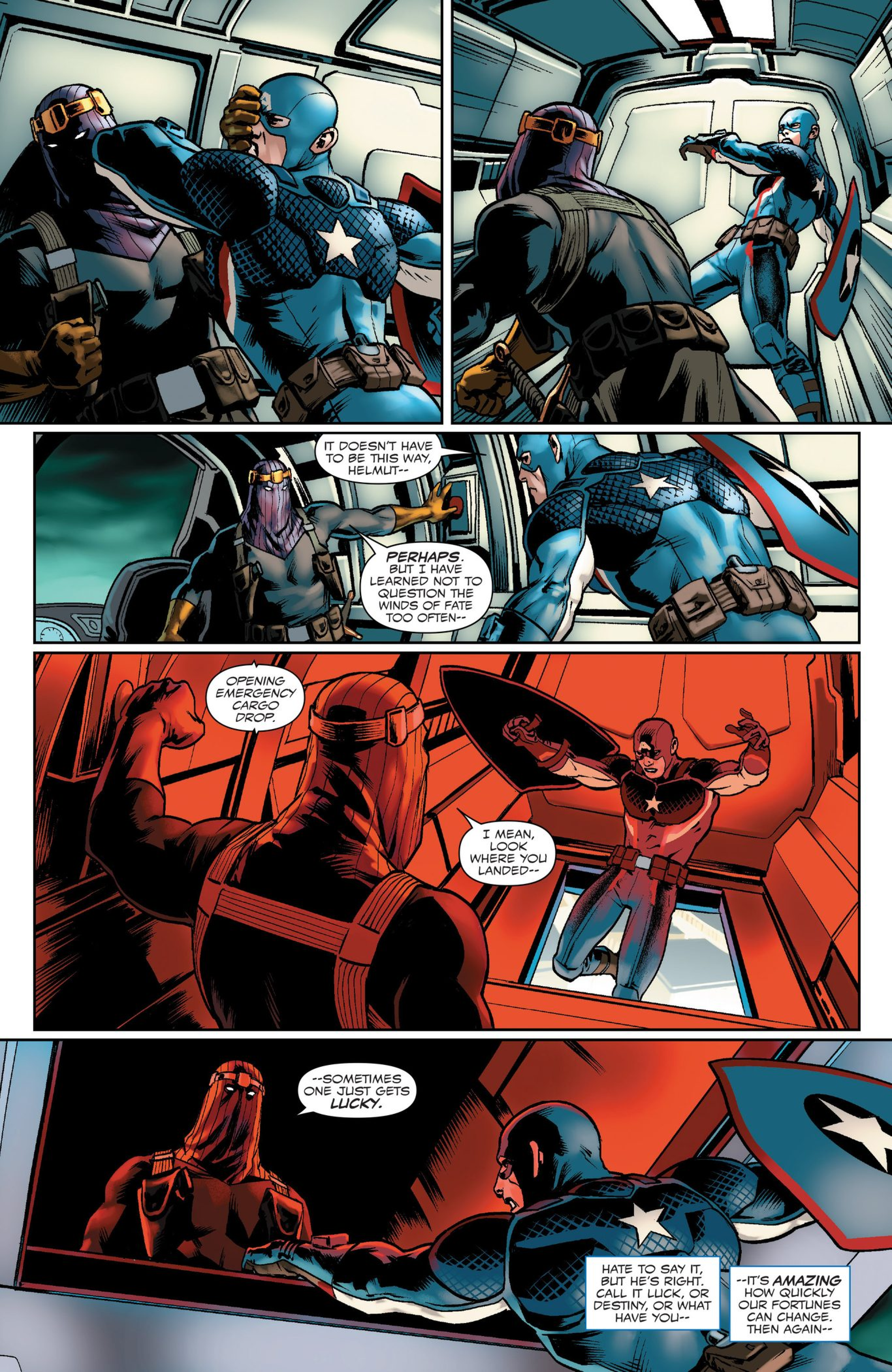
--WHAT WITH YOU FACING A SECRET TRIBUNAL FOR YOUR CRIMES AND ALL.
EASY, CARTER--YOU'RE NOT DIRECTOR YET. I'M STILL IN CHARGE OF THIS PLACE--
PUBLICLY. AND AS SUCH, IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU TALKED TO THE PUBLIC. TRIED TO REFUTE THE SKULL'S MESSAGE--BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, IT'S MORE THAN WORKING. THEY CANNOT SIGN THESE KIDS UP FAST ENOUGH--
WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU, SHARON? I ASKED THE TECH GUYS DOWNSTAIRS TO BUILD ME A GUN THAT GIVES ANYONE I SHOOT AN MBA AND A JOB AT GOLDMAN, BUT THEY SAID IT'D TAKE A WHILE.
IN THE MEANTIME, I DEAL WITH THE WORLD AS IT IS--
WELL, NOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE A COSMIC CUBE YOU DO--
YOU KNOW, THERE'S A REASON I SHOW UP LATE TO THESE THINGS--
--IT'S BECAUSE I'M HOPING YOU TWO WILL WEAR EACH OTHER OUT.
SHE STARTED IT. I ACTUALLY HAVE GOOD NEWS TO SHARE FOR ONCE!
WHAT GOOD NEWS?
WHAT'S THE THING WE ALL WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS? BESIDES FITBITS?
WAIT--YOU MEAN...?
UH-HUH. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--
--WE GOT HIM.

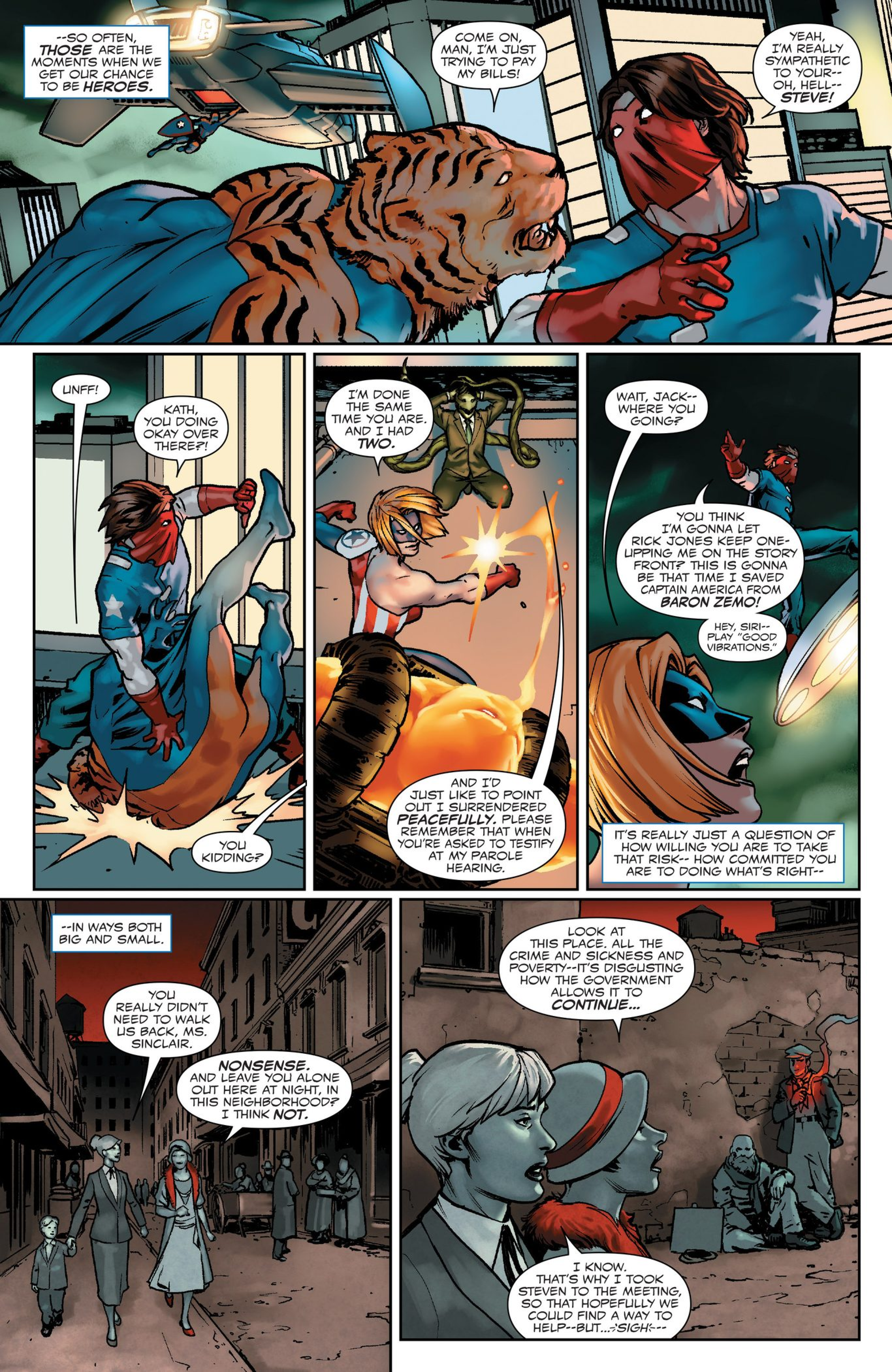
"WE'VE ALL OBVIOUSLY BEEN DYING FOR A REUNION WITH BARON ZEMO SINCE HE STAGED THE REVOLT AT PLEASANT HILL.
"THE PROBLEM IS, OUR ONLY SIGHTING WAS A POORLY SOURCED RUMOR OF HIM TRUDGING THROUGH THE HIMALAYAS WITH ONE OF OUR OWN--DOCTOR ERIK SELVIG--IN TOW AS HIS PRISONER.
"WE PRESUME HE'S FORCING SELVIG TO HELP HIM FIND KOBIK-- THE SENTIENT COSMIC CUBE THAT STUCK HIM IN PLEASANT HILL IN THE FIRST PLACE (MY IDEA).
"BEYOND THAT, THOUGH, HE'S BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO PIN DOWN--
"UNTIL TODAY.
"HE'S POPPED BACK UP ON THE GRID IN BAGALIA, THE CITY WITH NO LAWS--SUPER VILLAIN CENTRAL.
"AND WORD IS HE'S NOT HAPPY."
THE RED SKULL IS TELLING THE WORLD THAT HE CONTROLS HYDRA NOW?! LIES!
HYDRA IS MORE THAN SOME STREET GANG OF POORLY-EDUCATED LAYABOUTS BLOWING THEMSELVES TO BITS AND VANDALIZING PROPERTY!
I KNOW BECAUSE I BUILT IT INTO WHAT IT WAS-- AN ORGANIZATION OF THE GIFTED, THE STRONG, THE DETERMINED, ALL WITH ONE GOAL IN MIND: A MORE PERFECT WORLD! A WORLD THAT BENDS TO OUR WILL!
WE WILL SHOW SCHMIDT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HE TAKES WHAT BELONGS TO ZEMO BY DIVINE RIGHT. THE WAR FOR THE SOUL OF HYDRA BEGINS NOW. AND WHEN IT ENDS, THE SKULL WILL KNEEL--

--TO HIS NEW MASTERS!
US?
I GOTTA BE HONEST, I THOUGHT MORE PEOPLE WERE GONNA SHOW UP.
MORE WILL COME, THAT I CAN ASSURE YOU!
AS OTHERS ESCAPE FROM S.H.I.E.L.D. IMPRISONMENT, THEY WILL REMEMBER WHO FREED THEM--WHO LED THEM OUT FROM THE DARKNESS IN PLEASANT HILL!
HE KEEPS GOING ON ABOUT THAT--I LIKED PLEASANT HILL! I HAD A TV REPAIR BUSINESS AND A TWO-BEDROOM HOUSE. NOW ALL I'VE GOT IS TWIGS FOR FINGERS AND STUDENT LOAN DEBT.
MM-HM.
THEY WILL RALLY TO OUR CAUSE--
--AND THEN, ONCE THE SKULL IS DEPOSED, I WILL FIND THE COSMIC CUBE THAT I NEARLY HELD ONCE BEFORE--AND THEN WILL BEGIN THE PERFECT REVOLUTION!
HEY, MAN, I GOT CLEARED OUT AT THE TABLES LAST NIGHT, SO IF YOU'RE PAYING IN ADVANCE AND THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT--THEN IT'S REVOLUTION, BABY.
SIGH--I CANNOT BELIEVE I AM STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN LIKE THIS--
WELL, DON'T WORRY, ZEMO--
--I THINK I CAN SAVE YOU THE EFFORT.
CAPTAIN AMERICA!
NO, NO, THIS WON'T DO--IT'S FAR TOO SOON--

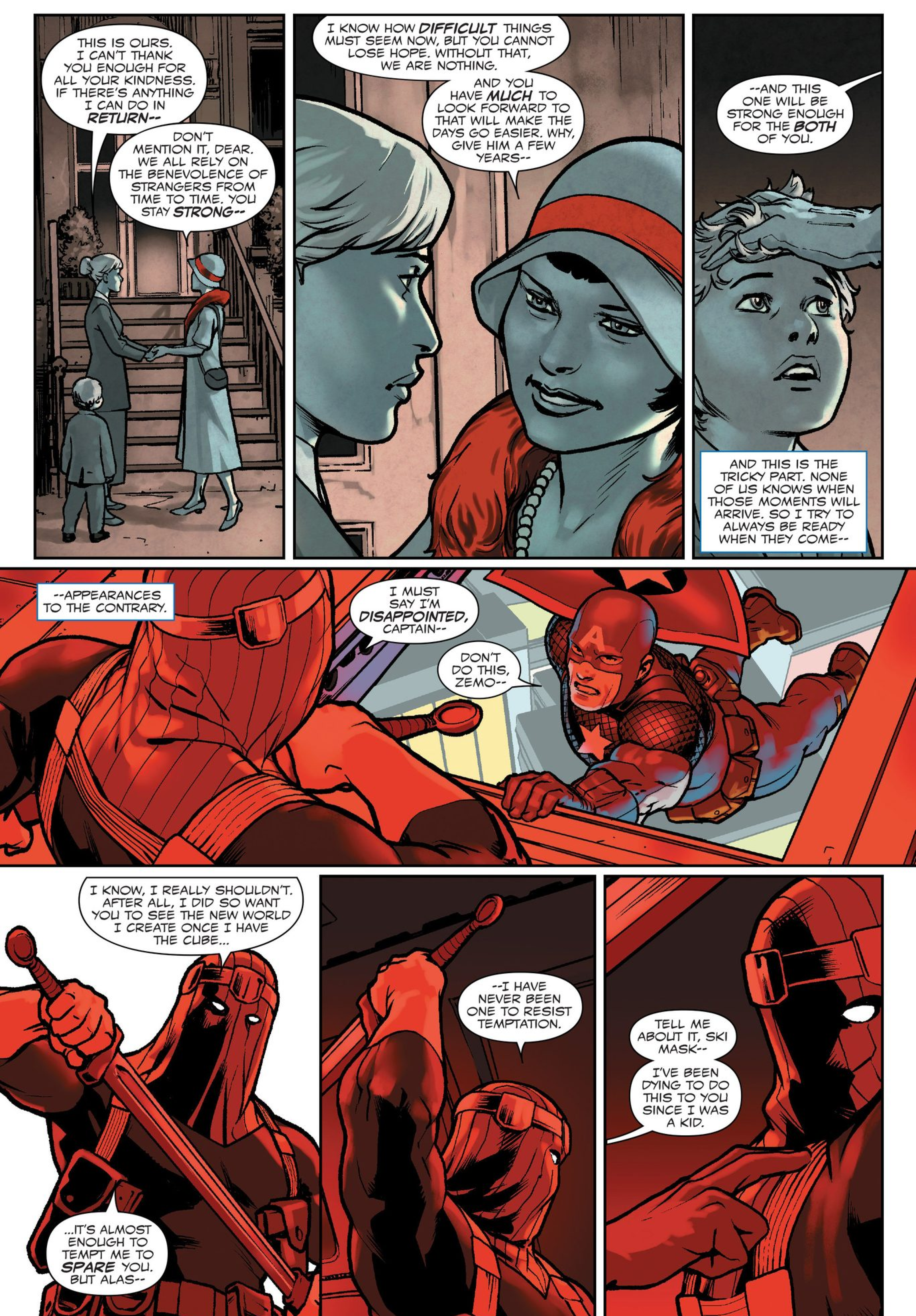
NEW MASTERS, TAKE THEM!
I, UH--I THOUGHT THIS WAS MORE LIKE AN ORIENTATION--
NO KIDDIN'-- WE HAVEN'T EVEN TALKED RATES!
DON'T GET DISTRACTED, EYES ON THE LEADER! ZEMO WILL USE THE FIGHT AS A DISTRACTION--
AH, CAPTAIN, YOU KNOW ME TOO WELL--
BOOM!
DON'T CONSIDER THIS A FINAL FAREWELL, THOUGH--
--ONCE I HAVE THE COSMIC CUBE, I'M SURE WE'LL BE SEEING EACH OTHER. 'TIL THEN-- TOODLES!
NO-- CAN'T LOSE HIM AGAIN--
YOU TWO--STICK TOGETHER, WATCH EACH OTHER'S BACKS! WE DON'T KNOW IF HE HAS MORE FORCES AROUND--
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT SOME HELP?
NO! FOCUS ON THESE THREE--
--ZEMO'S MINE.

I HOPE YOU ARE COMFORTABLE, DOCTOR SELVIG, AS THESE SPEEDS WILL MAKE THIS A BUMPY RIDE.
BUT SOON WE WILL BE BACK AT THE LAIR, AND YOU WILL HELP ME FIND MY COSMIC CUBE--
--OR I WILL MAKE YOU QUITE UNCOMFORTABLE, INDEED.
AH, OF COURSE.
SIT TIGHT, DOCTOR--THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET HEATED.
ZEMO! THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH--
--IT ENDS NOW.
SIGH-- FOR ONCE, CAPTAIN--
--WE AGREE.


IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS WAY, HELMUT--
PERHAPS. BUT I HAVE LEARNED NOT TO QUESTION THE WINDS OF FATE TOO OFTEN--
OPENING EMERGENCY CARGO DROP.
I MEAN, LOOK WHERE YOU LANDED--
--SOMETIMES ONE JUST GETS *LUCKY.*
HATE TO SAY IT, BUT HE'S RIGHT. CALL IT LUCK, OR DESTINY, OR WHAT HAVE YOU--
--IT'S *AMAZING* HOW QUICKLY OUR FORTUNES CAN CHANGE. THEN AGAIN--



--SO OFTEN, THOSE ARE THE MOMENTS WHEN WE GET OUR CHANCE TO BE HEROES.
COME ON, MAN, I'M JUST TRYING TO PAY MY BILLS!
YEAH, I'M REALLY SYMPATHETIC TO YOUR-- OH, HELL-- STEVE!
UNFF!
KATH, YOU DOING OKAY OVER THERE?!
YOU KIDDING?
I'M DONE THE SAME TIME YOU ARE. AND I HAD TWO.
AND I'D JUST LIKE TO POINT OUT I SURRENDERED PEACEFULLY. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WHEN YOU'RE ASKED TO TESTIFY AT MY PAROLE HEARING.
WAIT, JACK-- WHERE YOU GOING?
YOU THINK I'M GONNA LET RICK JONES KEEP ONE-UPPING ME ON THE STORY FRONT? THIS IS GONNA BE THAT TIME I SAVED CAPTAIN AMERICA FROM BARON ZEMO!
HEY, SIRI-- PLAY "GOOD VIBRATIONS."
IT'S REALLY JUST A QUESTION OF HOW WILLING YOU ARE TO TAKE THAT RISK-- HOW COMMITTED YOU ARE TO DOING WHAT'S RIGHT--
--IN WAYS BOTH BIG AND SMALL.
YOU REALLY DIDN'T NEED TO WALK US BACK, MS. SINCLAIR.
NONSENSE. AND LEAVE YOU ALONE OUT HERE AT NIGHT, IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD? I THINK NOT.
LOOK AT THIS PLACE. ALL THE CRIME AND SICKNESS AND POVERTY--IT'S DISGUSTING HOW THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWS IT TO CONTINUE...
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I TOOK STEVEN TO THE MEETING, SO THAT HOPEFULLY WE COULD FIND A WAY TO HELP--BUT...<SIGH>--


THIS IS OURS. I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR ALL YOUR KINDNESS. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO IN RETURN--
DON'T MENTION IT, DEAR. WE ALL RELY ON THE BENEVOLENCE OF STRANGERS FROM TIME TO TIME. YOU STAY STRONG--
I KNOW HOW DIFFICULT THINGS MUST SEEM NOW, BUT YOU CANNOT LOSE HOPE. WITHOUT THAT, WE ARE NOTHING.
AND YOU HAVE MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO THAT WILL MAKE THE DAYS GO EASIER. WHY, GIVE HIM A FEW YEARS--
--AND THIS ONE WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH FOR THE BOTH OF YOU.
AND THIS IS THE TRICKY PART. NONE OF US KNOWS WHEN THOSE MOMENTS WILL ARRIVE. SO I TRY TO ALWAYS BE READY WHEN THEY COME--
--APPEARANCES TO THE CONTRARY.
I MUST SAY I'M DISAPPOINTED, CAPTAIN--
DON'T DO THIS, ZEMO--
I KNOW, I REALLY SHOULDN'T. AFTER ALL, I DID SO WANT YOU TO SEE THE NEW WORLD I CREATE ONCE I HAVE THE CUBE...
...IT'S ALMOST ENOUGH TO TEMPT ME TO SPARE YOU. BUT ALAS--
--I HAVE NEVER BEEN ONE TO RESIST TEMPTATION.
TELL ME ABOUT IT, SKI MASK--
I'VE BEEN DYING TO DO THIS TO YOU SINCE I WAS A KID.

WHAT ARE YOU--UNFF--DOING HERE, JACK?! I GAVE YOU A DIRECT ORDER TO ASSIST FREE SPIRIT--
NAH, DON'T SWEAT IT, SHE'S GOOD! PLUS, YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME HELP, SO I--HEY--
IT'S THAT SCIENTIST GUY WE WERE LOOKING FOR--YOU FOUND HIM, THAT'S AWESOME!
DAMN IT.
EVERYTHING OKAY, SIR?
NO, NO, IT ISN'T...
I'M SORRY, JACK.
...CAP?
THESE MOMENTS--THEY CAN TURN EVERYTHING UPSIDE DOWN. IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE--

--EVERYTHING CHANGES.
ACTUALLY-- SARAH? BEFORE YOU GO--
YES?
IT OCCURS TO ME--THERE IS ONE THING YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO FOR ME.
O-OF COURSE--
I WAS JUST REMINDED, WITH YOUR TALK OF TRYING TO GET INVOLVED. YOU SEE, I'M ACTUALLY PART OF A SMALL GROUP--A SORT OF CIVIC LEAGUE, I SUPPOSE-- AND WE'RE POSITIVELY DESPERATE FOR NEW MEMBERS.
IT ISN'T ANYTHING TOO DEMANDING--WE MOSTLY JUST GET TOGETHER AND TALK ABOUT WHAT'S IN THE NEWSPAPERS, OR BOOKS WE'VE READ. LOOK FOR WAYS TO HELP THE COMMUNITY. SOME OF THE MEMBERS EVEN BRING THEIR CHILDREN-- YOU COULD BRING STEVEN!
OH, THAT SOUNDS-- THAT SOUNDS WONDERFUL, MS. SINCLAIR. BUT--
BUT--?
IT'S JUST-- BETWEEN MY RESPONSIBILITIES TO MY HOME AND WORK AT THE MILL, I'M SPREAD TERRIBLY THIN, AND...WELL, TO BE HONEST--I DON'T KNOW THAT JOSEPH WOULD APPROVE.
OF COURSE. WE MUSTN'T UPSET JOSEPH. HOW ABOUT THIS? YOU HAVE A THINK ON IT--AND IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL LEAVE YOU ONE OF OUR PAMPHLETS--GIVE IT A READ--
LIKE I SAID BEFORE--
SECRET MEETING
NEW YORK CHAPTER THE HYDRA SOCIET
CONCERNED CITIZENS WELCOME
I THINK YOU'LL LIKE WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY.
--IN THE RIGHT MOMENT, IT ONLY TAKES ONE PERSON TO CHANGE THE WORLD FOREVER.

JACK FLAG SAW HIS MOMENT.
AT A SECOND'S NOTICE, HE SAW SOMEONE IN NEED AND HE DID WHAT HE BELIEVED WAS RIGHT--
--WITHOUT QUESTION OR FEAR OF CONSEQUENCE.
THAT MAKES HIM A *HERO*--
--AND THAT IS WHY HE DESERVED SO MUCH MORE THAN THIS.
IT'S A TERRIBLE PRICE TO PAY FOR WHAT MUST BE DONE.
THIS ROAD HAS NOT BEEN EASY, AND I HAVE PLENTY OF CAUSE TO DOUBT IT.
BUT EVEN *STILL,* I HOLD TRUE TO WHAT I BELIEVE--
AND I FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THOSE WHO INSPIRED ME.
YOU SEE, I DREAM OF SOMETHING *BETTER,* TOO.

HAIL HYDRA.

NEXT